

W r e s t l i n g P e r s p e c t i v e

Volume V § Issue 42 • The Forum For Professional Wrestling Debate • \$1.50

Wrestling Is A Man's, Man's, Man's World... But It Wouldn't Be Nothing Without A Woman

Professional wrestling has always been a male-dominated sport. Yet within this framework, a few women have been able to achieve success, and some have even achieved stardom. Today, two of professional wrestling's most well-known female personalities and performers - Missy Hyatt and "Sensational" Sherri Martel - are at the crossroads of their careers. Hyatt was recently released from World Championship Wrestling while Martel is preparing to join that same promotion on a full-time basis.

In two of the most interesting interviews to appear in Wrestling Perspective, Hyatt and Martel detail their careers, their private lives and their views on the business. The Hyatt interview is the first of an extensive three-part interview, while the Martel interview is run in its entirety and completes this special issue of Wrestling Perspective.

So sit back and enjoy these fascinating discussions with two wrestling's most famous and memorable personalities.

In Perspective: Missy Hyatt

Few women have achieved the success of Missy Hyatt in professional wrestling. During the past nine years, regardless of the promotion for which she worked, or the role she portrayed, Hyatt has been a very popular figure drawing ratings and selling tickets. Hyatt's level of popularity seemingly went unnoticed by WCW this February when she was released due to a dispute with management. In this interview conducted by Paul MacArthur on March 1, 1994, Hyatt candidly discusses her falling out with WCW management, her plans for the future, how she got started in the business and more. Part II of this interview, which discusses her career, the Playboy offer, and her many outspoken opinions, will appear next issue.

Wrestling Perspective: What were the circumstances surrounding you leaving WCW?

Missy Hyatt: The whole story is basically I went into Eric Bischoff and said, "There's a few things about the Clash the other night that I'd like to talk to you about because you said you really want people to give you input and I thought maybe you'd like some of my input." And he's like, "Aww, next week." I guess because I'm a woman. Then I said, "Well, I heard Sherri Martel is coming. We're not going to be wrestling each other are we?" Because I don't wrestle and plus she could probably suplex me and hurt me in a bad way. My body's not made to wrestle. So I asked him and he's like, "No, she's going to be with Kevin Sullivan and the other guy." "OK, cool." Because I'm thinking that'll be cool. She's a babyface and I'm a heel, we can work a thing as long as she doesn't suplex me, that'll be cool. So I walked out of his room and I called Bob Dhue, because I wanted to get a friend of mine's phone number. She's a friend of ours. She runs Ticketmaster in Orlando and her name's Donna and I met her at the Pittsburgh convention. So I called up basically to get her phone number. So he had asked me, so he goes - two weeks previously Eric said he was going to give me another contract and wanted to sign me up for another contact and said he had to let Bob Dhue and Bill Shaw sign off on it once he wrote it up and he would give it to, oh whose that little weasel with the glasses? He's the lawyer, Gary Juster. Gary Juster was there at the time so he said, "OK, I'll give it to Gary. Gary will write it up and I'll send it over to them." So I went to Bob, this is like at Center Stage a couple of weeks before. I said, "Yo Bob, Eric's getting me my contract. Once you sign off on it, make sure Shaw signs off on it too." He's like, "OK, OK, no problem, no problem."

So when I called to get Donna's number a couple weeks ago, he says, "Hey, I haven't seen anything to sign off on your contract. I said, "Well, I don't know what's going on." He said, "Well, why don't you go to the party tonight and talk to Eric." I said, "Aww, I don't want to go to the party." He goes, "Yeah, yeah, go to the party." So he said, "What did you think of the Clash last night?" So I expressed my opinion about the *Clash of the Champions*. I said that it looked really stupid that Bobby Heenan and Gordon (Solie) were talking about something totally unknown during the comeback of our match, during the babyfaces' comeback. The good guys are doing a comeback and their just talking about something. They also said it was a title match, which it wasn't. It was a non-title match. Then at the end of the match, they win. The good guys win, then they kiss me, which is no big deal, that's just comic relief because I am their Marilyn Monroe. I'm there for comedy purposes only. So I get kissed, But on the slo-mo, they show him (Cactus Jack) kissing me, which, in reality, they should have shown the heels losing and then coming back in with the belts beating up the good guys and then walking away. Because am I wrong or am I right that a *Clash of the Champions* is there to make you want to pay \$29.95 for the pay-per-view that's coming up in a couple weeks. So if I'm sitting at home and I'm drinking my beer and I'm looking at the TV and going "Goddamn, I'm going to pay \$29 because I want to see them old ugly boys kiss that blonde girl" or either I'm going to be sitting at home going, "Goddamn that Cactus Jack and Max Payne beat them in a non-title match and then those Nasty Boys get back in there and beat them up. I really bet there's going to be a title change. I bet at *SuperBrawl*, if they can beat them in a non-title, they're going to be able to beat them right?" But you know the commentary was awful. So I wanted to express my opinion about the whole thing. Well I guess me expressing my opinion and me having a little bit of brains in my head, which no, I only have nine years experience in this business. Only nine years. Not that I should know anything about this whatsoever.

That night, I did go to the party. I

roller bladed over there with a hockey stick in my hand, which Eric Bischoff can - ahem, I'm not going to say anything - and he says to me and you can quote me, this is exactly what he said to me. He said, "Missy come here for a minute." He pulled me over in the corner, no one was around, points his finger at me and he goes, "Next time you go over my head and call Bob Dhue you're on a day-to-day contract." And I go, "Look Eric, my contract is up the 28th. You haven't even sent my contract to get signed off on. It looks like to me that it's up anyway." Eric looks at me and he goes, "Look if you take care of me, and you know what I mean by that, like you take care of a lot of other people," he goes, "you'd be here. But as far as I'm concerned, you're gone now." Okay and then he walked away and I looked at him and I said, "Eric I can't accept this." Because he was drunk and he walked away. So I went back up to my room and cried and called Bob Dhue at home and Bob told me, "Don't worry about a thing." Two days later, I go into the office and took two of my attorneys in there and they told me times change. That they never did consider giving me a new contract. So they literally lied and so we got up and we left. So that's that. So c'est la vie.

WP: So basically ending a tenure with WCW since 1987, '88.

MH: That will be five years. I completed five years. Like I told them, I said, "The only three people that have been there that aren't WWF rejects are Ron Simmons, Sting and Missy Hyatt." Which, if you think about it, I think that's true.

WP: Steve Austin and Bobby Eaton would be it.

MH: Steve Austin and Brian Pillman. But they haven't been there for the whole five years.

WP: During the five years that you were there, it seemed like, with rare exception, they rarely utilized you right. Do you feel that was the case?

MH: No, no one ever did because no one has ever had a brain on how to use a woman in wrestling.

WP: If you were to say, what would your optimum role have been?

MH: Comic. I was just in here with Boni (Blackstone) and we were watching the old me trying to get into the locker room interviews. I laughed my, I laughed at my own self. I didn't like hosting because I can't stand to sit here and listen to my squeaky voice for a whole hour. I hated me hosting the show. Doing the looking for the Chamber of Horrors, I watched that. That was funny. Me doing the "Missy Does Mail" with me being serious was stupid. Being a manager was fun, not with the Nasty Boys though.

WP: It wasn't?

MH: I'm just saying in my point of view if I'm sitting back and I'm the boss and I'm looking at a character, Missy Hyatt. How I would put her, this is how I'm telling you what I would do. I'm not saying my own self, if I was on the booking committee, which, and you can quote me: A woman would never, ever get a chance to be on the booking committee because they're all anal retentive men and we don't know the handshake to get in there. But if I was sitting back and looking at a female in wrestling, I think lady wrestling is gross. Maybe in Japan, it's a different kind of culture. It think a lady rolling around on a mat with another woman is gross. I don't think people pay to see a woman give another woman a suplex. I think sex and violence sells. I think you need a Marilyn Monroe, but it needs to be comedy. I don't think a woman should be serious. No one's going to take a woman being serious, Alexandra York with the computer running the company, because we all know that's bogus bullshit. I mean everyone knows that wrestling's entertainment. Give them entertainment.

WP: During your WCW stints you never had the chance, do you think at any point in your career you were used properly?

MH: (Pause) UWF. Ken Mantell used me pretty good. When Kip Frey was there and I got to do all those funny interviews. If they would have let Dusty do what Dusty wanted to do with me, yeah. But there was always somebody there that wouldn't let him do it.

WP: *What did Dusty want to do?*

MH: Dusty's always called me Marilyn. I was Dusty's Marilyn. Dusty always tried to find ways to use me and use me as comedy. There were just other people that would say no and don't do it. But if Dusty would have had his choice, Dusty could have made Missy. It was always Dusty's things with me, the locker room stuff. If Kip Frey was there, the company would be so totally different and so awesome right now. That he didn't even have a chance... It blows goats that someone that is so creative and has such an open mind about entertainment didn't get a chance.

WP: *Basically six months.*

MH: Yeah, six months is not enough time to do anything.

WP: *Particularly a company that large.*

MH: Yet they'll let someone that lies on their resume run a company for a little bit longer, who when I worked with them couldn't close down an interview. When they're giving you the 10 second cue it took him about 10 different times because he couldn't even get it right, couldn't get it right to save his life. They put him on the Canadian show because he sucked so bad. I'm not saying any names, only that he looks like he has a toupee. Let's just call him, uh, Joe. No, Eric. We'll just call him Eric.

WP: *A former Minneapolis based announcer?*

MH: Yeah, a former Minneapolis based announcer who how he got his start in wrestling is that some guy was sick that day and they needed someone to hold the microphone. I think that's how he got his start. Not saying that Missy Hyatt got her start, how I got my start is any different... but I'm going to start getting on my high horse and getting nasty.

WP: *What do you plan to do now?*

MH: I am moving to New York. I have a couple of interviews with a couple of agencies. One's William Morris. The other is Girsch. I've got two auditions. I'm going to the actors studio and there's other actors workshops that I'm going to in the morning. In the afternoons I'm going on auditions and at night I'm probably going to be a hostess at some trendy nouveau riche cafe to pay my bills.

WP: *The struggling life of an actress.*

MH: I'll be a struggling actress in New York. Because if my squeaky voice can carry... Channel 46 did a thing and they talked about my voice being squeaky and they could hear it throughout the dome. If my voice can be heard throughout the dome and I can make 10,000 people... How many people usually come into an arena? 8,000 people, is that about right?

WP: *Yes.*

MH: If I can make 8,000 people stand up on their seats and throw shit at me and I'm not even talking, just think what I can do on stage if I open my mouth, you know? An auditorium in New York City, that's all I have to fill? (laughs) If that's all I've got to fill, shit I should have been up there a long time ago. Why have I been wasting my time in wrestling?

WP: *300 people, no problem.*

MH: (laughs) No problem. Shit that's my friends. I'll call them up, "yo'."

WP: *Of course WCW can't put 300 people in the arena.*

MH: That's right, they've got to pay models. They do at Center Stage. They have to pay people. They pay people \$25 to come to Center Stage to sit there.

WP: *They pay them now?*

MH: They are paying them \$25. All the good looking people that you see in front first row, three or four rows, they tape it off and they pay people \$25.

WP: *To keep the little black kids away.*

MH: Yep and they give them all the T-Shirts and they're all models from a talent agent. They're told to boo and yell. Can you believe that?

WP: *It says something about the business.*

MH: No, it says something about the people running the business. The business has gone through changes. The business is like the circus. It has survived many years on TV. It has to change with the times. Unless you change with the times, you're gone. It's just like soap operas. The reason why *All My Children* has been on for so long and Erica Caine has been on there for so many years is because she changes with the

times. She still doesn't have that same hairdo. She's changed. She went from a cocky little girl skipping school to now she has a daughter whose tormenting her life. I mean times change (laughs). I don't know if you watch *All My Children* (laughs).

WP: *Let's jump back, how did it all start for you?*

MH: I was going out with John Tatum, and David Manning and Rick Hazzard saw me. I heard from, who was it, they were looking for somebody in New York. So I sent my picture up there and, who was that guy? George Scott called me and they were talking about putting me with Randy Savage. This was before Elizabeth. When Rick Hazzard and David found out that somebody from the WWF called the house for me - I just did it as a fluke just because I was pissed at John - they brought me in a meeting and I sat there in a meeting with Fritz and Kerry, God rest his soul, and Kevin and David Manning, Ken Mantell and John. They wanted to come up with a name for me. I was always called Melissa and John always called me Missy, which I hated, because I grew up with that name, Missy. I always thought Melissa made it sound older. We were trying to come up with a name, we liked Missy, so we just kept my real name, Missy Hyatt. I was originally going to be his grandmother, that I married his grandfather and then he died on the honeymoon (laughs). That's really, I'm serious. That's what my original role was going to be and he was going to call me grandma. I was to be his grandmother. "Oh, he's my grandson. Isn't he cute? Oh God rest your grandfather's soul. He was so sweet. It's so nice that he left me all this money. I was so upset that he died on our honeymoon (laughs). But I'm supposed to take care of you now." See, but we never did get to do the story line.

WP: *Who nixed that?*

MH: Oh it just never did get told. They had me come out and they needed a quick fix and they wanted me to hit Sunshine with the purse. It just, we never did get a chance to do it (laughs). I thought it was hysterical myself.

WP: *Rather entertaining.*

MH: Yeah (laughs), rather entertaining.

Sidelines

Thanks To Dave Meltzer and Wade Keller for the plugs. They are most appreciated.

Next Issue features part II of our Missy Hyatt interview, the Phantom returns, and much more. If your subscription ends with this issue, renew today.

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In Perspective: "Sensational" Sherri Martel

During her 14-year career Sensational Sherri Martel has been praised by many as the best American female wrestler of the eighties and considered one of the top managers in the game during her stints with Randy Savage, Shawn Michaels and Ted "Teddy Bear" DiBiase. Always an entertaining performer, Martel has had an eventful career that she details in this interview with Paul MacArthur conducted on February 16, 1994. Martel also discusses her longevity, the state of women's wrestling, her experiences with the AWA, the WWF, Jim Cornette, Robin Smith, Japan and much more.

Wrestling Perspective: Why did you want to enter the business?

Sherri Martel: Why did I want to enter the business? When I was real young, I always realized that I wanted to be in some type of entertainment. It took me a while to find that right little niche. But I found it at a very nice age. I was probably... my mom started taking me to matches when I was real, real young. I was like 10 or 11. I started going to shows and everything and I liked that. So it was something boys do, you know, guys. I thought it was a guy thing. I started watching and paying more attention to it and I saw the women on it. I could do this. I got away from it for a little while. I wanted to be clown in the circus and I went down to Ringling Brothers and

Barnum and Bailey Circus office in Florida. I wasn't aware it was kind of something you had to be born into. All these people have been doing this all their lives, you know. Walking tight ropes when they were little and I kinda got disgusted, discouraged by that and I went back home and everything. I started getting into wrestling again. I thought, "I could do this." That's how it pretty much started.

WP: Who trained you?

SM: I was in a small school for about a year in Memphis, Tennessee. The name was Butch Morris School of Wrestling and after that I went to Moolah for a year to get polished in Columbia, South Carolina. After that, I spent in Japan and I went to Moolah in like late '79 and to Japan in January, February 1980. After that, everything else is pretty much history.

WP: For a period of time if you didn't work with Moolah, you didn't work.

SM: Yeah, that was up until probably 1984. '83, '84. At that time, if you were a female in this business and you were going to work anywhere, she would have to book you. That's not the case anymore because more people are becoming more independent, especially women. I think it's a good thing because you can go to

school and get polished, but the teacher's never going to teach you everything she knows. She is an extremely dedicated woman and demanded the most professional she could bring out in you, the best she can bring out in you. Nobody went on the road unless they knew what they were doing.

WP: Overall it was a positive experience?

SM: Oh yeah, for sure. I learned things there that I could probably have never learned anywhere else. Who better to learn from than the woman who's been in this business and held the woman's title 26 years. I mean, come on. I can't think of anybody else in the business that could have trained me and given me the experience she did.

WP: Where did you work in Japan at that time?

SM: It was All Japan girl wrestling. All Japan Women's Wrestling.

WP: Is that a bit of a different pace?

SM: Yeah, the pace itself is they work a lot faster than we do here or in Europe. The girls over there, they get the girls at 14 up to 17 and retire at 21. Basically, you have a bunch of girls that are just coming into puberty and all their hormones and

everything. They should be geared towards things little girls like to do as we know it over here. Over there, they go from their families at a very young age and they're trained. They go to school during the day. They're still in school and in the evenings we go and work and when we go on the road they have tutors. I stayed two months that time and I went back again in 1985 and I stayed eight weeks.

WP: Is it a bit more brutal there as well?

SM: (pause) I would have to say yeah, yeah, yeah. It really was. The last time I was over there, Luna Vachon and Lock, both of them had their heads shaved at that time also. I tell you what, it was us three Americans against all the Japanese girls and it was one of the craziest experiences I've ever seen. If you remember your wrestling history, Luna and Lock, they always wore those long fingernails and you'd see those Japanese girls come back from the ring every night and the flesh was slashed. I always asked them, "Why do you do that to people? You know you're going to come in close contact with those people. What happens if they get an infection or something?" What's funny is when those little Japanese girls would come back from the ring, you knew they were hurting. You could see it in their faces. But they hide it very well. You'd hear when they got back to the dressing room, they'd cry and everything. But that's wild. I thought it was real, real crazy. That's one of the things I remember about Japan and why it was so crazy over there. Like over here, if you do that to someone over here, they'd tell you one time about the damn finger nails. The next time, you might find them being broke off. It's not like you're going out there to kill somebody. You go out there to compete, but you're not going out there to do physical body harm because if you do that, there's not going to be anybody else to wrestle. God knows there's a limited amount of girls as it is.

WP: You don't necessarily go by "the stiffer the better" angle.

SM: Well, it depends. It depends (laughs).

It depends on the situation (laughs).

WP: When I was talking to Don Jardine, he said occasionally you had to slap someone back in line.

SM: You have to do it sometimes. I don't particularly... I've never taken anybody under my wing and tried to train them or anything like that. But somebody asked me what my advice was, I would say, "If you're going to come in close contact with people, always be courteous. Cut your fingernails down. If they scratch you, they're going to scratch somebody else." I say that because I've seen several people get scratches and stuff like that and they can get staph infections from the dirt on the mat and stuff. You need to take safety precautions. It is important in life as it is in anything else.

WP: Do you think that's why a lot of promotions are pretty well getting rid of blood with the exception of Smoky Mountain and USWA.

SM: And ECW, Tod Gordon in Philadelphia. Don't forget Tod up there now.

WP: You were just at the 60-minute match.

SM: Yeah. That was one of the most phenomenal things I've ever been involved in. Oh God. Shane against Terry Funk, who is just a phenomenal name in this business. He's probably forgotten things that most people never learned. And Sabu, who is God sakes extremely excellent; extremely excellent talent, phenomenal. He does those somersaults off the top rope, does a back flip that breaks a table. Those three men were out there for an hour and it was just no doubt in my mind, everybody got their money's worth and went home very happy that night. That's what we're out there to do.

WP: What did you see your role as in that match?

SM: My role was being on the outside just being Shane's manager. That's basically what my job is. When I'm the manager out there I don't try to take the attention from

what's going on in the ring to myself because that's not the way to do things. The focus is on what's happening in the ring, not on myself. I've been known to lend a hand occasionally. By no means too shy. I'm not shy (laughs).

WP: Have you ever seen your role as a manager to cover in the ring when the guys are tired?

SM: If I have to. I'm pretty much well equipped and able to do just about anything that's required of me out there. I've always prided myself on being very versatile and being able to adapt to any situation I'm into, which has allowed me to be in the business and work. That's one of the main reasons I was at Titan for so long because I was able to be versatile and to create a character with whoever they put me with to make that character I created, make it compatible with the person I'm working with. So therefore, most of the programs were successful that I've been involved in.

WP: How would you compare your role working with Randy Savage compared to DiBiase or Shawn Michaels? How would you say they were different?

SM: I was with Randy the longest of anybody. I learned so, so very much from Randy. When I first went up to Titan in 1987, I won the title in July or August. I don't remember offhand, but I won the world title and that came to pass and it went to Rockin' Robin in Paris. I was kind of worried that maybe I'm not going to have a job. So then I found out I was going to be the manager of Randy. Well at the time, I was still a little star-struck at the time being around all those fabulously talented people and it was just real crazy. I found out I'd be working with Randy and I thought, "Oh my God, what does your wife think about this?" If I'm working, I've learned a long time ago, if I'm going to be working with one of the guys that are married, I always like to sit down and talk with their wives and find out how they feel about the situation and find out what they would rather I did not do as opposed to what I was going to do. It was really crazy. Randy and Liz, I

was going through a really bad marriage at the time I was managing Randy. If it wasn't for Randy and Liz, I would have had a nervous breakdown. More so Randy than Liz because I was with Randy more. I used to wear pink sunglasses and Randy told me I literally looked at the world through pink sunglasses and he told me I needed to take them off. After the two years of working with him and going down the road and going to the gym and going to restaurants and eating and talking... I mean he is so professional. He's such a perfectionist, you would not believe. He shows that every time he goes out to the ring. Anytime he's in front of that camera, he's Macho Man Randy Savage. He'll always be king as far as I'm concerned. It was the hardest thing I ever did was at Wrestlemania in Los Angeles when we broke up. That was probably the hardest thing I had to do. When you work with somebody that closely for so long, you kind of get to where you're used to being around each other, you can pretty much predict the other one's move. Randy pretty much knew what I was going to do and I could pretty much read him the same. There's not another Randy in the world. Not another one. I'm saying that out of admiration. Affection and admiration because I think that he's really just a wonderful person and I really hope he finds that true love that he had at one time except this time I hope it lasts.

Ted, Teddy Bear (laughs) has always been the type of person, Teddy Bear never needed a manager. There's some people like having a manager, some people don't. They took it as far with Ted and I that they could. We had some really great shows together. Riding up and down the road, he's wonderful, wonderful, man. He's a great family man. He loves this business very much. He comes from a wrestling family. Iron Mike and his mother was a lady wrestler too. He grew up in the dressing room. It was kind of nice. He used to tell me stories about his mom and dad all the time, which is really, really nice. That lasted probably a year and I went with Shawn. I watched Shawn even from being

in the AWA, he and Marty were partners as the Midnight Rockers. I was managing Doug Sommers and Buddy Rose at the time and it was really interesting to me over the years to watch Shawn develop from like a new breed kid when he came into the AWA. He and Marty, they've done nothing but build themselves higher. It was propelled to such a height. It's amazing to sit back and watch him become from someone who just started out to being one of the top heels in the business today. It was funny when I first started with him. I didn't think he knew how to do the part of a heel because he's always so used to being a babyface. It was amazing to watch him. I told him, "Get in front of the mirror and shake your hips. Be real cocky. Be that cocky Shawn that you are out in public sometimes. Get mad, get that attitude." I told him, "Go home. Talk to your wife. Go home and talk to her. She probably knows you better than anybody and she can give you some help." And lo and behold, she did and we all worked together and Shawn turned out to be a phenomenal talent. I feel real privileged to work with all three of those guys.

WP: Shawn's become the top worker in the United States.

SM: Isn't he? He's got it all. He's got brains, brawn, he's got everything. He's a great, great person.

WP: I assume with Ted you learned a lot due to his amount of time in the business.

SM: He told me, "If you ever need a shoulder to cry on, I'll always be there." It's been true for each and every one of the guys I've worked with. But Ted would always know if I wasn't in a good mood or something or if I was having female problems or something. He always knew, always knew and it was really nice. I feel very fortunate to have worked with such phenomenal people. I feel I've really been blessed in so many ways.

WP: How would you compare Shane to the other guys? He hasn't really had the spotlight like the have with the exception of

a couple of short runs.

SM: That's only because they've overlooked him. They're blind as a damn bat, a f—in' bat. I'm serious because Shane is a very, very unique wrestler. He has his own style and he's a technician. That's what he is. If you put a move on him, he's got a counter move for it. Hey, you've got to tip your hat to anybody who can go out in the damn ring for an hour. This hour match that he just did, I mean it was him against Sabu and Terry Funk. He was out there all by himself. I was talking to him in the back, I said, "At least they get to change off. You're out there." It was wonderful. He's a great guy to work with. He's going to go a long way.

WP: How would you describe working for Verne Gagne? You were there right before things started heading south for him.

SM: I was down in Memphis, Tennessee. I was working for the Jarrett promotion and one of my partners, he got his foot broke and my tag team broke up. I went up there to do a couple of shows and I started talking to Larry Zbyszko and they were looking to bring in a new girl as a manager. So I was talking to Larry and a couple of other people and they took me into Greg Gagne's office and that's where they started talking to me about maybe moving up to Minneapolis and coming to work there full-time. Of course that was great for me because it gave me the opportunity to learn how to do interviews on TV. We go to the studios on Tuesday, we'd be there from like 10 o'clock in the morning to 7, 8 o'clock at night and we had 36 markets to do. The interviews were 2 1/2 minutes long. 2, 2 1/2 minute long each and every one of them and they had to be specific. Greg and Verne demanded, I mean demanded, demanded with a capital "D" that you get the exact time in and you stick to the subject and you get the point across in 2 1/2 minutes. If you think about, 2 1/2 minutes doesn't seem like it's a long time, but when you've got to sit there and you've got to build a story around 2 1/2 minutes that's going to make people buy tickets and put butts in seats, it's really something, you

really need to do. Not a lot of women in this business have had the opportunity to do that. I was really fortunate being with Verne up there because they all pitched in and tried to help me out a whole lot. needless to say, it's paid off tremendously.

WP: That seems to be a shortcoming today. A lot of people can't do the interview.

SM: Yeah, it is. Remember when they had the individual territories and everything. When you had the individual territories and you had the guys that have been in the business for a long time, so if a new person broke into the business, you always had the more experienced guys around to help him along and teach him. You don't have that anymore. There's no place for guys to train now. There's nowhere for them to gain ring psychology but inside the ring. But if there's no ring set up and no towns going, how are they going to learn ring psychology? How are they going to learn how to work in front of a group of people? How are they going to learn how to do interviews? Nobody's cutting anybody a break. I really wish it would go back to the individual territories because all those long trips, I mean I know there are wives and husbands out there that really hate having their mates gone all the time. I really think if it went back to individual territories, everybody would be a lot happier.

WP: Do you see it happening in the near future?

SM: Not so much in the near future. But small independents are opening up all around us. Like Tod, Tod is opening up. He's got that part open. I hear Crockett's fixing up to open again. The Portland guys are still going. They've got Mexico. I really hope, wrestling's at a low point, I really hope it's on its way back to a high one again. It would be nice. We have so much negativity. We should get back to what we do best and that's wrestling.

WP: When you worked for Verne Gagne, what was Greg's involvement at the time?

SM: Greg was a wrestler and also a booker with Ray Stevens.

WP: Was he good to work for?

SM: Yeah, Greg was real good to me. He was real straight and helpful because Greg knows what will look good on TV and what will come across good on TV. He was always there if I got stuck or if I had a problem or anything. I could always go to him. I always could. I recently went down to the Disney Studios this last week. I went to the tapings and it was Mike Graham, Greg Gagne and Bill Dundee were bookers there. It was phenomenal seeing all that talent there. Everybody says WWF's got all the talent, but that's not true. WCW has some wonderful talent down there and it's going to be a matter of time before you see a real big turnaround at WCW. But back to Greg, having him there, it brought back all the memories of the AWA. He hasn't changed a bit. He's still knowledgeable about wrestling as ever.

WP: How would you compare the experiences of working for Verne versus working for Vince McMahon?

SM: 150 degrees. At the time when I was there with Verne, we did stuff right around Minneapolis and their surrounding states. We did our filming out in Las Vegas at the Showboat. If they did 15 shows a month, they were doing good. We were happy. I was making enough money to get by on and I had my apartment. I was happy. No big bills or nothing. I went to Vince and that was a whole new league (laughs). Everything's so technical there. The first time I went to do TV, it was a mass production and I just walked around. I went out to the arena and I just walked around. I talked to some of the guys that were setting up the arena. These guys get there really early in the morning and start setting this stuff up. They work their butts off. It was phenomenal to talk to them. Some of the guys have been there for years and years and years, dating back to Wrestlemania I. It was a totally different experience. It was a much larger scale of a territory 'cause Vince goes all over. There's no place he won't run. I think he could have went to Iraq and put a show on there. They wouldn't allow it (laughs). I think

there were talking about that at one time. It was different. I'm very glad thought that I went to Jarrett Promotions and then Verne and then Vince because it gave me a chance to perfect my interviews and talking in front of a camera so I didn't freeze up. When I first started with the interviews, with Verne, I used to wear sunglasses all the time. I used to have a problem, I'd look at the monitor and you're not supposed to look at the monitor because people can see when your looking down and looking at yourself. You're supposed to look at the camera straight ahead, but they broke me of that. I did a WCW interview and Greg jumped on me. He said, "Sherri, you're doing it again. You're looking at the monitor. Don't look at the monitor. Look at the camera." He said, "Haven't you gotten over that yet?" It was a real nice experience. It brought back a lot of memories being there. It's totally different, larger scale. It's like comparing a small business to an established business.

WP: Do you have a defined role with WCW or is it still up in the air?

SM: Still up in the air. I'm going up there Friday to talk to them.

WP: Talk to the boys.

SM: Yeah. I wouldn't exactly call a man in Eric Bischoff's position a boy (laughs).

WP: Somehow, Eric's done very well for himself.

SM: I don't know him very well. I met him when I went to the tapings. He seems to be a genuinely nice person. He's open to ideas. From what I've heard people say about him, he's open and he doesn't have a chip on his shoulder like I know what I'm doing and nobody needs to tell me this, that and the other. He's genuinely interested in you and he listens. You know how you can talk to somebody and if they're not looking directly at you and talking with you. They're talking at you and looking all around and it's just a pain in the butt. It's rude. I didn't find Eric to be that way at all. I had a very pleasant experience while I

was sown there. Everybody was very wonderful. It was good to see everybody. It's good to see Bossman, or the Boss, excuse me. He's looking great. When you walk in some dressing rooms, you can cut the tension with a knife. You walk in down there and everybody's so happy.

WP: From what I've read, there's a lot of chaos. Did you see that at all or was it pretty organized.

SM: They seemed very well organized. That's just from being there the one time. Of course, I don't know everything going on so it would be hard. It didn't seem chaotic to me. Not at all. It seemed they were very well organized to be honest.

WP: Well you should be if you've got Ric Flair sitting there.

SM: Yeah. Sure. Ain't that the truth. I didn't get to see Arn while I was down there. Maybe next time. Maybe I'll see him Tuesday.

WP: He's supposed to be pretty amazing.

SM: Teddy Bear trained him.

WP: That explains why he's such a good worker.

SM: Arn's a phenomenal ain't he? He's a wonderful, wonderful person. That's my Sea Breeze partner (laughs).

WP: Why do you think ladies wrestling has had such a problem with long-term successful runs?

SM: Well because no one's body was made to take the type of beating that we take and when you look at it from a wrestler's point of view, I've got 14 years in the business now. Believe me, I feel every one of those 14 years when I get up in the morning. It's just really hard and I know that if it hurts me, I know what it's doing to other women. I know what it has done to other women that have gotten out of the business like Joyce Grable and a few of the other girls. Lelani Kai and Judy Martin are still wrestling and Heidi Lee Morgan and Alundra Blaze, who is Madusa of course everybody knows that. But I think it's such

a hard life. Your best friend on the road is your tooth brush, your curling iron, curlers and your blow dryers and suitcases. You communicate with your family by telephone. You're out on the road for 12, 13, 15 days and home for three days. You sleep the first day back and do laundry the second day, repack the third day and go out the next day. You really don't have anytime to slow down. It's a really, really hard life because most of the buildings are equipped and most of the time they don't have a separate dressing room for the girls, so we just find a place where we can get dressed. It's not that they're being inconsiderate, we're just out numbered. A lot of the girls wrestling years ago were more heavy. The younger girls coming to the sport today are bodybuilders and stuff like that. But they're still not going to keep up from hurting when they've been in the business 13, 14 years. It's not going to help anyone when they have to pick their suitcase up and have to leave their husband or their family or their animals or whatever. Being on the road is a really hard life and you can get so burned out so quickly. You really, really can. You can let it get to you so, so bad. Every hotel room looks the same. I used to wake up in the middle of the night and I'd look around the hotel room and it didn't know where I was. I'd call down to the front desk, "Sorry, I know you're going to think I'm an idiot, but where am I at? What time is it and what hotel am I at?" Most places knew me and they'd say, "Sherri you're in Indianapolis or you're in St. Louis." "All right, thanks, good night." So that was basically how it was the last two years working for Titan. It was really a hectic schedule. you get paid well for it and everything. If I had to do it over again, I'd do the same. I wouldn't trade a moment in this business for anything.

WP: What would you describe as your best moment?

SM: My best? You're asking me to pick something, on particular thing out of so many wonderful things, extraordinary things. The first day I worked in the Philadelphia Spectrum with Randy Savage

against Hulk Hogan. The match I had with Shane, Terry Funk and Sabu and the match I had with Jim Cornette this past year. Oh yeah, the mirror thing too where Shawn hit me in the head with the mirror, that one too (laughs). I could probably go on and on. I mean I got everything done to me except decapitation and a hysterectomy. Being in one territory for six years is a long time for any woman.

WP: And somehow prevented yourself from getting stale in the process.

SM: Versatility. Being able to be so versatile you can, you know, they can put you with anybody.

WP: You talked about when you were there doing everything. Did you mind the whole strip scene with the Warrior?

SM: Nah, nah. Hey look, I wore more clothes out to the ring than most people wear to the beach. It did seem like I didn't have anything. It was the element of illusion.

WP: At the time, there were protests from people saying it wasn't family entertainment. Did you see it that way at all?

SM: No, I didn't see it that way. You can turn on the TV and see worse violence than you see in a wrestling match. It's ridiculous. You can sit at home in front of the television and see all those slasher movies. Women running around totally naked. I mean totally and God knows doing what else, simulated sex on TV and somebody's going to bitch what I'm doing is not family entertainment? I'm just going out there and giving these people that come, this is for all those people that pay their hard earned dollars to buy those tickets. When I go out there, I give them 150 percent. I don't care if there's 10 people or 10,000 f—in' people out there, I give 150 percent. I know when I was working with the Warrior and Randy, I know I watched them guys go out there every night, I mean every night for almost a damn year and beat the hell out of each other and then I got my little things going on in there. When we get finishes, when everything was said and done at the

end of the show, you know what the most important thing is? Those people went home happy. They enjoyed themselves and they enjoyed the show. That's the most important thing because if you don't have that, you're a total flop. You know when it's a flop, believe me, you know when it's a flop. Sure those people are going to go out there and they're going to heckle you and everything. I'm doing my job if they do that to me. If I'm not, then I'm not doing my job. I'm not doing it. Then I'm not going to get any response out of these people.

WP: Like boring chants.

SM: Yeah, I hate those (laughs). What's always killed me, like all these support groups. They used to call McMahon everything. Luna and I did the Raw thing. Okay, they had a bunch of support groups calling us. I told Vince, "Why don't you let me get a hold of some of these support groups and why don't you let me tell them what I think of them to keep their God damn nose out to my business. This is how I make a living. This is the way that I support my family and pay my bills. As far as I'm concerned, I'm not doing anything wrong." Granted it's a constitutional right to have differences of opinion and to voice it. But don't bring it where someone don't want to hear it. If you don't want to see the Ultimate Warrior rip my skirt off and I've got, I still got more on than people got on at the beach. I mean don't buy a ticket. I mean go to bingo or something. Whatever it is those boring people do. Whatever it is they want to do. Don't come in there and bitch at me 'cause I'm trying to make a living. I'm trying to entertain people and have a good time in the process myself. I've never been one for these groups. I think they ought to keep their opinions to themselves or take it where it's more welcome because it isn't welcome in my case. They all can take it and shove it.

WP: Let's ban Married With Children, Howard Stern and everything else.

SM: Yeah, it seems like people are taking advantage of their constitutional rights,

you know. I think they ought to sit back and look at themselves before they start pointing fingers at other people.

WP: What effect do you think GLOW had on women's wrestling?

SM: It didn't last very long. I was in some of these arenas where they were coming in right before or right after and I always talked to the people in charge of the arenas to find out what the attendance was and they didn't do a very good attendance. Who's to say? From what I know of them, there have been a couple of them that pursued wrestling like Heidi Lee Morgan. She's come along real good. I think she started out there. But I think a lot of those girls didn't actually know how to wrestle at the time 'cause I could sit down and watch it and hit myself in the head and go, "Aww God, she missed." Nobody would notice it except someone who knows what they're going for. I didn't care for it too much because, granted T and A sells in any product no matter what it is, but I like wrestling the way it is. I like WWF. I like WCW. I like Tod Gordon. I never really wanted to work with an all-women's group.

WP: Like the LPWA?

SM: No. No, Wally Karbo is gone, so no way. I would have done anything in the world for Wally Karbo, but he's not with us. He's in my heart, but he's not here. Just take it one day at a time and see what happens with WCW.

WP We spoke to Robin Smith a couple of years ago and she said that if Vince McMahon wanted to run a successful ladies division he could because he's that intelligent. Do you think that's right at this point and time or like you said, the other concerns would prevent it?

SM: The only thing, I think Vince is capable of doing anything he wants to do. Vince was really, really good to me for six long years. When we left, we parted on good terms. I called him at Christmas and he returned my call on Christmas Eve. Vince is a very, very smart intelligent man. I think if he wanted to bring women's wrestling

back, he could probably do it. However, the only question about that would be the talent in the United States, unless they were going to bring girls in from Japan or Mexico.

WP: Who do you think in the U.S. including yourself would be capable of performing well for Vince?

SM: You're asking me to pick out people, that's not fair. You can't ask me to say something bad about the girls. You're trying to get me decapitated before I get back. All the girls are very unique in their own individual way. They're professionals and perfectionists towards themselves. They're very, very proud women. They work very hard in a male-dominated sport and it's always going to be male-dominated no matter what you do or who raises hell or what. It's always going to be male-dominated. But there's always going to be a spot in there for us women because you guys can't do without us.

WP: What do you think makes a good worker?

SM: Stamina. I thought if there's someone I've never worked with before, I get tapes on every girl that wrestles so if it's someone I've never worked with before, I watch tapes of her to see what moves she does and try to look at her and see what she's made of. Most of the time, she does the same things I do except for some things in a different way or do some things a little different. Just being versatile and being able to work with anybody. That makes me think of Moolah. When I was in camp, I was the one taking everything while all the girls were learning this, that and the other, I was the one that took it. Like some of the girls learned how to suplex, well I was the one that they'd do it back and forth and cross body from the top rope. I was always the one that took those. I remember my first Christmas at Moolah's before I went to Japan. It was myself and Penny Mitchell. We were down in the gym working out since we couldn't go home for Christmas. We were low on funds at that time. We weren't making any money. We had to

scrape and everything like everybody does when they first start out. So we're down in the gym working out and I was really pissed off. I said "Well I'm going to do this damn splash off the top rope." Penny and I had been in there working out and bumping around and Moolah and Donna Christentello came out and we didn't know they were watching so I caught them out of the corner of my eye when I was going up on the rope and I'll be damned, I did the one thing she kept telling me not to do, I turned my face down instead of turning it sideways and caught my nose in the mat. I had a nice, nice, nice, nice bloody nose.

WP: Merry Christmas.

SM: Oh yeah, Merry Christmas. I figured I was down there to learn and I was going to get in there and work out. What better way to do it if you're going to do it. You just got to get in there and do it. But all the girls have been through excruciating pain to get where they are in the business, especially Judy Martin, Lelani Kai, Penny Mitchell and all the ladies that were there before us. You can't imagine what it's like to be on the road. It's hard to explain to somebody; explain to somebody what it's like it they've never been there. Living out of the suitcase. How would you feel if it's your time of the month and you get PMS like a son-of-a-bitch and the last thing you want to do is go and hear all these ga-ga jokes from these guys. You know how guys are. You guys get around and start telling your jokes this, that and the other thing and playing jokes on each other.

WP: And then you've got to take a bump on top of everything.

SM: Oh yeah. I mean you guys don't have any chests. I mean they have chests but not like we do and it hurts. It does. It hurts. It also hurts just as bad when a woman gets hit down there. It does.

WP: I wouldn't doubt it.

SM: It does. Ask Candi Devine. I gave it to her enough times (laughs). I used to throw her into the turnbuckle and she had this thing where she'd take baby steps. Like

you throw her in and you back drop her and she'd take these damn baby steps. So I take her from one turnbuckle and throw her into the other one and she slides down and she's sitting on the third turnbuckle. Man, she's have he legs spread wide open a couple times. I'd go in there and I'd go in and kick her in the crotch. Oh God, I've seen her double over a couple of times. At the time I thought it was funny as shit and then she turned around and did it to me one time. It was so funny (laughs). I know I don't want to get it anymore.

WP: Are you pretty well retired from actual wrestling?

SM: For the time being. For the time being. Let someone else have the chance to do that. Other girls need the opportunity to go six years up there with Vince. Alundra Blaze is up there now and Heidi Lee Morgan. I wish the best for them. I wish nothing but the best for Titan and for Vince also.

WP: If you had to pick out a moment that was the worst one the business for you what would you say it was?

SM: My worst moment in the business. Are you referring to the wrestling business or what was happening in my personal life at that time?

WP: Whatever you're more comfortable talking about or both.

SM: (Laughs) When I dislocated my knee the first time after I came back from Japan. I was working for the Jarrett promotion again. It was myself, Lelani Kai. We were working doing the Memphis TV. As a matter of fact, Jim Cornette was my first manager. Lelani Kai and I were tag-team champions there and he was our manager. That was when he first started managing. I was his first ladies tag team champions. We were his first champions. That was really cool. Not long after that, a week or so after that, it was like the latter part of 1982, no 1983. We had the mixed man-woman battle royal and like a stupid idiot, I went down. Somebody hit me and I went down. Remember Plowboy Frazier, Uncle

Elmer? He fell on my leg and dislocated my left knee. So that was probably the worst in wrestling.

I told you about the bad times when I was working with Randy and they kept me from having a nervous breakdown. I was going through a really, really bad marriage. There comes a point I time in your life when your job's going good and when everything in your life seems to being going good, you kind of have a tendency to want it all. I kind of forgot that having a relationship, a lasting relationship with someone takes time and lost of hard work, which I had neither to give. It wasn't all my fault. He was an asshole and a dickhead too with a capital "D." Wherever he is, I hope he gets AIDS and a little bit of his dick falls off inch by inch. Whoever the broad that gives it to him, I feel sorry for (laughs). I really do.

WP: Slightly embittered about it?

SM: Embittered? What's a nice way to put this? I hope he gets his just rewards in the end. I truly believe what goes around, comes around. What you do and give to people in your lifetime is what you're going to get back. It's hard to have a relationship with people on the road. When you're on the road, my phone bill is like 450 bucks. So when I'm on the road, I use my calling card so all my phone bills are directed to my house. It's just really crazy. You try to cut down on bills and if you have a boyfriend, I was going with this gentlemen and he got teed off because I didn't call him everyday. I said, "Give me a f---in' break here. I'm out here trying to make a living and the cost of everything else." Excuse me. (Call waiting beep). That was Paul E.

WP: Paul E. there's a mind in the business.

SM: He's wonderful. I love to beat up on him. I do. He's always so hyper and he's always on the go and oh God he's phenomenal. I have so much respect for him. Him and Cornette. There are certain people who stand out in the way they weave themselves into your life and it's so crazy. I'm a very fortunate woman. Very, very fortunate. A very lucky woman.

WP: You just did a stint with Cornette and Tammy Fytch. Did you enjoy working for him?

SM: Yeah, I did. I'd go for him anytime, I would. He was at the convention and I sent him a message down here, "Jimmy, please marry me and take me away from all this." My girlfriend, I was asking about somebody else, Kathy Fitzpatrick in Philly, my best friend, she was my manager that night when I was working with Tammy and Jimmy. It was crazy. I had Kathy take a message to Jimmy and Jimmy wrote, "Yes, I'll marry you. Let's leave now." On the bottom he wrote, "Don't worry about that guy, he's gay." He was just doing something to bust your balls. It was just so funny. Jim Cornette could make a broom look good in the ring. You could put him out there with a broom and make the broom look good. That's how good he is and people really don't know how excellent of a wrestler that Jimmy is. Hey, I'm not taking anything away from Paul E. out there. Paul E. can get out there and scrape with the best of them. I'm serious I'd put my person in either hands anytime.

WP: You all went through the same schooling: Jarrett Promotions.

SM: I don't think you ever get out of schooling in the business. You really don't. It's like once you close your mind to learning something new, you're practically finished. That's in life too. You always have to leave yourself open to something new. You're always watching everybody wrestle and seeing what everybody else is doing and seeing if you can top that. That little bit of competitiveness is there. It's amazing. Working around all these amazing, wonderful people just makes you want to do your very best and excel to the highest point possible.

WP: Where do you see yourself long-term in the business. Do you see yourself staying for another 10 years or do you see yourself getting out anytime?

SM: Maybe four more years. I promised myself after 40 I wouldn't go back to the ring anymore (laughs). I just turned 36

February 8, so I'm enjoying my business now. Whereas the past 13 years, I was working to learn it and I'm enjoying it and still learning. Still learning the stuff everyday and in terms of ring psychology and in terms of different stuff. I go out to the ring sometimes and work out. We've got a ring down here. But as far as getting in there full-time as far as wrestling again, I don't think so. If the opportunity came up, I probably would (laughs). Like everybody else, it's one of those things. Ten years from now, hopefully I'll have my beauty salon opened by then. I'd like to do a movie. I'd like to do one just to see if I could do it. That would be fun. I just want to work and save my money and enjoy four more years (laughs) and be the very best I can.

WP: If someone's entering the business right now, as hard as it is, what would you say to them? How would you advise them to stick it out?

SM: Get a job (laughs). Get a job. If they're really serious, they're going to have to buckle down really hard 'cause there's really no place to go. There's no places to go to be trained. The business, the way it is now, it's almost impossible for a woman to get in or even a guy to get it. Look at all the talent out here. But if they're really persistent, I'm sure they'll find their own way. I can give them a couple of phone numbers and see how they go from there. Wait a minute, Tod Gordon is opening a school. Bite your tongue Sherri. Yeah, Tod Gordon is opening a wrestling school in Philadelphia. He's open right now. It's been open about a month. But he's training a couple of new girls up there to be managers. The only thing you have to worry about being a manager in this business, if you can't get out there, the thing that was good for me was I could work and I could talk too. That was an advantage for me. I would suggest to any girls, get in front of a mirror if you're really serious. Get into that school. Get out there with the guys and learn how to take bumps, learn how to work. Get in front of a mirror and talk about an interview. Take a subject

and talk for two minutes about it and build a story around it in two minutes.

WP: That's challenging. It's not easy.

SM: No, it's hard. If you don't have a specific subject to talk about, you're not going to be able to keep anyone's attention, much less sell tickets. I hope wrestling itself is coming back around. I think it will do good. There's going to be new people coming in to take the place of the people that have been around for a long time. There's always being to be people surfacing and resurfacing and that's just the way this business is. It's the old people, new people, all of them have one common love; they all love wrestling. They all love wrestling.

WP: Do you think valets have helped or hurt the business at all or had any difference on it?

SM: I don't think it's hurt the business. No. It doesn't hurt it. I tell you what, women come to the arenas and if you go to the arenas, it's pretty mixed isn't it? Well the women like to look at the men and the men like to look at the women so there's a little bit of something for everybody. If you have something out there, it adds a little bit more color to the program. It does. I always helps. The more experienced the person is, the better it is.

WP: Jumping back to Robin Smith, she once told me wrestling you was like wrestling the Tasmanian Devil.

SM: She's got a lot of room to talk. Her with her bony ass. The Tasmanian Devil. He's my favorite cartoon character. At least she pegged me with someone I like. The little bony ass (laughs). I got a special place in my heart for her. My only regret concerning Robin is that she didn't stick around longer so we could have got in on a few more times. I would have liked that a lot. Wrestling Robin was really phenomenal. It really was. The Tasmanian Devil, shit. Trying to catch her is like trying to catch the f—in' Road Runner. I'm sorry, I talk like a sailor sometimes. Oh God, you brought back some memories of that one. Paris. It really wasn't no big

thing. Belts are only extra baggage to me. When I had it, I was very fortunate to have it and then she got it. I was kind of glad 'cause I didn't have to worry about it going off in my bag and being checked for security at airports all the time. The damn thing weighed 10, 15 pounds. Carrying it around in your bags with make up and everything else a woman carries in her bag, that thing gets pretty heavy.

WP: Did you enjoy the time working with Robin?

SM: Yeah, I really did. I enjoyed every girl I worked with. It was very nice, very professional, very good down home girl. I was out there making a living. Maybe I should heel it up a little but I'm not going to because I really think I deserve that respect. I wish she would come back so I could go a few more rounds with her. Her dad works for WCW. Maybe when I go back, maybe I'll talk to him and see what she's doing.

WP: What do you do to relax?

SM: I've got a 150 pound Rottweiler that's laying down over there on the floor that I play with and give a lot of attention too. I have a Chow, a red Chow, Goldie. My mom has a miniature Dachshund. I call her Porgy Princess. I love getting out doing yard work. I've got an acre and a quarter here. I'm going to do some landscaping this summer since I've got the time off. I'm just enjoying. I haven't been home for 13 years, so it's kind of nice to

just do the regular everyday things that regular people do. I put make up on every day. I run around the house barefoot in jeans or shorts or something. It's beautiful outside. The sun is shining. It's really nice out here. I live way out in the country. I live about 30 miles in the country. We've got a big deck outside and I like to go out there at night. It's really, really quiet because there's no traffic, no smog, no pollution. Maybe there is a little bit, but it's not as noticeable as it is in New York, LA or one of the bigger cities. It's just so quiet. You can hear all the night sounds, crickets. It's just so peaceful. This is so peaceful. This is my refuge away from the world. I've got a great relationship with my mom. If there was ever a perfect relationship between a mother and daughter, I have it with my mother. I'm very blessed I feel. I thank the good lord everyday I wake up.

WP: Many people don't have that.

SM: I don't know why. The way I figure it is I have one mother and one father. I never met my father. MY mother's been two parents to me. She worked her ass off to raise me and get me through school, educate me and make sure I had a good upbringing and home life and good values. I wouldn't be any of those things today if it wasn't for her. She's very precious to me. If I was probably between the ages of 13 and 17, I wouldn't be saying that. My son's 15 and he's a walking hormone and he's 6'4" and 248. It's hard to discipline someone who towers over you. I say, "Look it. Either

you tell me what to do it's my way, the highway or the baseball bat." You can't whip him (laughs). You just can't and he's still at that age where he's still growing. He's in this mood when he wants everything designer. He's out of them in six months. The next thing I know he's going to hit me up for a driver's license. Yeah right. You better get into drivers' ed. I had to buy my own car and I don't see why I should buy him one. Go get a job and buy it. He'll appreciate it more. I think kids are spoiled today, too much. Technology has warped their brains, TV and video games and they don't exercise their mind very much. They don't have any imagination.

WP: Is there anything you want to add?

SM: Happy Easter from me to you. May you have everything you dream for and everything you want. I you can't have it, take it (laughs).

WP: I believe that was a Greg Valentine interview from 1981. If I can't have it, I'm taking it.

SM (Laughs) Greg. What a guy he is. The turtle. That's what we call him. He's so slow. Great guy though. Another guy with a family in wrestling.

WP: I thank you for your time. I really appreciate it.

SM: I hope the sun shines on you.

WRESTLING PERSPECTIVE
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Belated congratulations to Dave & Elise on the lovely addition to their family: Spencer Taylor Skolnick - or as Paul calls her, 'Little Chigusa' - who was born this January. Now, get some sleep!

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